

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, Claims 10, 16, and 17 are amended to yet more clearly define the invention set forth therein. Claim 13 is canceled.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10-13 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sieger, U.S. Patent No. 2,076,969 (Sieger) in view of Sato, U.S. Patent No. 5,207,138 (Sato). Claim 14 was rejected as claims above and further in view of Martin, U.S. Patent No. 3,037,396 (Martin).

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 10-17 are patentable over the cited references.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that Sieger '969 is a pertinent reference, it would not be obvious to provide therein two pinch-roller sets located in front of and behind the first and second drums, respectively, for advancing the rolled strip,

under longitudinal tensioning, through a blade gap between the first and second drums.

The Advisory Action assets that for tensioning the strip, the length of the strip should be at least as long as a distance between the pinch rollers. However, no suggestion to this effect can be found in Sieger. In any case, such pinch rollers would be arranged upstream of the drums.

Further, claims 10, 16, 17 recite roller means for supporting the tensioned strip and providing for lifting of the strip before passing of the second lower blade and for lowering the strip before passing of the first upper blade through a cutting position, which roller means cooperates with one of hydraulic, mechanical, driving and adjusting means an operation of which is synchronised with passing of a respective one of the second lower and first upper blades through the blade gap between the first upper and second lower drums. This insures that the blade contacts the strip only when a cut takes place. Such roller means is not disclosed in Sieger either. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Sieger '969 does not make the present invention, as defined by Claims 10, 16 and 17, obvious, even in combination with Sato, and that the present invention, as defined by said claims, is patentable over Sieger '969.

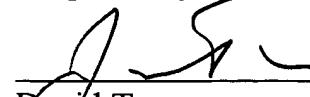
Claims 11-12 and 14-15 depend on Claim 10 and are also submitted to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Toren
Reg. No. 19,468

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Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
787 Seventh Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10019
Tel.: (212) 839-7355

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 14, 2004.

David Toren
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